

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, **Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** voted for bipartisan legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour over two years benefiting nearly 13 million American workers and their families.

"Minimum wage workers desperately need a raise," said **Rep. Miller**. "If we truly value work, then it is wrong to have millions of Americans working full-time and year-round, still living in poverty. Raising the minimum wage is the first step to a stronger economy for all Americans, not just for the privileged few,"

Miller
said.

The minimum wage hasn't budged in ten years, but the House passed the bill this afternoon to increase the paychecks of hundreds of thousands of janitors, fast food clerks and other workers at the bottom of the wage scale.

The bill would raise wages in three steps. It would go from \$5.15 to \$5.85 an hour 60 days after signed into law by the president, to \$6.55 an hour a year later, and to \$7.25 an hour a year after that.

In North Carolina, where the state legislature recently passed an increase in the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour, 611,000 workers will be affected by a federal minimum wage increase, according to Department of Labor statistics.

The last time the federal minimum wage went up was in 1997. That's the longest stretch without an increase since the minimum wage was established in 1938. Inflation has eroded the minimum wage's buying power to the lowest level in about 50 years.